IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 1, line 1 of the specification:

This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/US03/33255 which has an International filing date of 20 October 2003, which designated the United States of America.

Please amend paragraph [0085] as follows:

[0085] FIGS. 7A - 7C are diagrams illustrating a non-coherent relationship between a lower transmission layer over the upper transmission layer after upper layer demodulation. FIG. 7A shows the constellation 700 before the first carrier recovery loop (CRL) of the upper layer. [[and]] The constellation rings 702 rotate around the large radius circle indicated by the dashed line. FIG. 7B shows the constellation 704 after CRL of the upper layer where the rotation of the constellation rings 702 is stopped. The constellation rings 702 are the signal points of the lower layer around the nodes 602 of the upper layer. FIG. 7C depicts a phase distribution of the received signal with respect to nodes 602.

Please amend paragraph [0088] as follows:

[0088] FIG. 8B is a diagram illustrating an exemplary satellite transponder 107 for receiving and transmitting layered modulation signals on a satellite 108. The feeder link signal 116 is received by the satellite 108 and passed through an input multiplexer (IMUX) 814. Following this the signal is amplified with one or more a travel[[l]]ing wave tube amplifiers (TWTAs) 816 and then through an output multiplexer (OMUX) 818 before the downlink signal 118 is transmitted to the receivers 802, 500. As is known in the art, the TWTA 816 block can be multiple TWTAs in a power combiner, particularly in the case of the upper layer signal. Embodiments of the present invention relate to specific architectures of the feeder link and satellite transponders 107 as detailed hereafter in section 5.

Please amend paragraph [0093] as follows:

[0093] FIG. 9 is a block diagram depicting one embodiment of an enhanced IRD 802 capable of receiving layered modulation signals. The IRD includes many similar components as that of the legacy IRD 500 of FIG. 5. However, the enhanced IRD 802 includes a feedback path 902 in which the FEC decoded symbols are fed back to an enhanced modified tuner/demodulator 904 and transport module 908 for decoding both signal layers as detailed hereafter.